diseases like tuberculosis, etc., and the Member pressed that steps should be taken to remove that evil. The only remedy was either to construct the roads with dustless materials or to water them and thereby keep down the dust. The first alternative was unthinkable in the present state of our finances, while the second which presupposed a perennial water supply could not also be thought of, because the projected water-supply for the Town of Trivandrum had not so far materialised. The Member's suggestion was to lift the water of the Kochar or the Killiyar to a sufficiently high level so as to serve the Chalai area with the aid of the cheapest modern contrivances and convey it by means of pipes to the different places. He also stated that, if that scheme was not feasible, the water in the four tanks of Aryachalai, Chentittai, Vaniankulam and Sabhapatikoil, which were being supplied with water from the Kochar, should be conserved and the tanks protected from getting silted up, and that roads in the Chalai area should be watered by an automatic water-cart.

The Member next stated that the drains, as they now existed, were convenient receptacles of filth, dirt and washings from adjacent houses, and that at night they were used as latrines. All the streets were not provided with drains, and even when they were constructed, the levelling was unsatisfactory, with consequent evil results. There was no co-ordinated system of drainage ; nor was there any proper connection with the outlet channels. The Member pointed out that the continuance of the present system of drainage was the cause of diseases like small-pox, elephantiasis, etc., prevailing throughout the year, and requested that the matter might be investigated at once. He also stated that the present Chief Engineer, while he was the Executive Engineer of the Trivandrum Division a few years ago, submitted a detailed scheme of drainage works for the town and requested that he might now be directed to give effect to that scheme.

The Member next urged the necessity for widening the by-lanes in the Challa Bazaar and for providing urinals in every street at convenient places. He also requested that the by-lanes in the town might be lighted and that all the existing lamps in the Chalai Bazaar might be allowed to burn throughout during dark nights. That would not only ensure the safety of person and property, but would also help sanitation in that the lanes and the side-drains would not be used as latrines by the people under cover of darkness. He also suggested that the system of lighting the street-lamps for the whole night from the Eastern Fort gate to the Chalai Vernacular School should be extended to the side-roads branching off north and south of the Sannidhimukku and the Kachakadamukku in the Chalai Bazaar and that the system of gas-lighting might be extended to those roads.

As regards finance, the Member said that, as the Chalai Bazaar was the head-quarters of metropolitan trade, and as the benefits of that trade were shared not only by the inhabitants of the town, but also by those living outside, Government should take the initiative and make a generous contribution from the general revenues, especially as the works to be carried out were of a permanent nature involving large capital expenditure, which it was both beyond the power and the province of the local municipality to take up.

89. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram Municipality.

Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram) said that Padmanabhapuram was one of the prominent towns of the State, with its many important temples, palaces and fort. The town, and especially the portion within the fort, had now become very unhealthy, owing mainly to the fact that all healthy breeze was shut out by the presence of fort-walls. With a view to remove that evil, the Member proposed that the existing fort-gates should be widened and new gates opened so that pure air might freely pass through those gates into the area enclosed by the fort. He also pointed out that the major portion of the town was situated at the foot of the Velimalai, and that the people living there had, of late, become subject to malarial attacks owng to the denudation of the forests in of Velimalai hills. The Member, therefore, suggested that the evil complained of fint be prevented at once.

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He next pointed out that there was appreciable decrease of municipal revenue under taxes and scavenging fees in the wards within the fort, as the inhabitants who had been living in that ward left their houses and lived in other places on account of the insanitary condition of that locality and as the public offices were located at Thuckalai, which was a mile and a half from the Padmanabhapuram Fort. He requested that some of the public offices, *e.g.*, the Taluk office, the Sanketham cutcherry and the Sub-Registar's office might be removed to the vacant Government buildings within the fort. He submitted that, if his request was granted, not only would the revenue of the Municipality increase, but that the Government could also save a portion of the amount now spent on rent to buildings. The Member added that many of the tanks of Padmanabhapuram were the repositories of dirt and filth and that their timely restoration was not being attended to. In view of the great inconvenience the public of Thuckalai were put to for want of good water and in view of the inadequate financial resources of the Municipality, the Member requested that the tanks in the town might be properly maintained by Government with bathing ghats, flights of steps, etc., etc. The Member finally prayed that one of the vacant buildings within the fort might be given to the Municipality to locate its office.

Dewan's reply.—Such small works as the construction of a flight of steps to a tank should be attended to by the Municipal Council itself.

Member.—Now the income from the Municipality is only Rs. 6,000 and odd, though we have imposed all possible taxes. We have, therefore, not enough funds.

Dewan.—I do not want you to impose any more taxes. You ought to be able to increase your income from non-tax sources. Is there a cart-stand in the town? No. You ought to start profitable institutions like that.

You want Government to demolish the fort and open broader gateways. That is a very big work. I admit that that cannot be done by the Municipality. I have seen the fort. I agree with you in thinking that the ill-health of the locality is probably due to want of free air, on account of the obstruction of the fort walls. But to break open the fort is no easy task.

As regards the Velimalai hills, portions of which have already been registered, what could we do now? We can only stop the further registry of lands there. You did not object when the lands were registered. It is out of the question to acquire the lands already assigned. As regards the public offices, I have called for a report. You want a building for the Municipal office. The portion of the Palace which was formerly occupied by the Peishkar's office may be used for the Municipal office and I remember to have told the President so personally.

90. Revision of Town limits.

Mr. V. P. Sivasankara Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara) represented that several portions of the town of Neyyattinkara were non-urban in character and derived little or no advantage from municipal administration, and that it was hard that they should be called upon to contribute regularly to municipal funds, while other places lying very close to municipal limits could be included in the town with advantage to the inhabitants of those places and to the better management of the Municipality. Under the latter category came the Aralummud market which was only about two miles away from the place where the public offices were situated and which might be included within the town limits, as the place was a crowded locality with a number of houses and shops, besides two flourishing markets. The income from the markets now went to swell the pockets of private individuals. By bringing the place between the Aralummudu market and the Kuttappana bridge under the jurisdiction of the Municipality the revenue of the Municipal Council to which the Government grant had been recently reduced could be enhanced and the sanitation of that congested locality could be improved and maintained properly. At present, the Municipal Council found it very difficult to make both ends meet. The Member, therefore, urged alike on financial and sanitary grounds that the place between Aralummudu market and the Kuttappana bridge should be added to the Municipal town of Neyyattinkara.

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